

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 05437 131351Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-05 IO-14 TRSE-00 /097 W

-----075443 131949Z /73

R 131256Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5588

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 5437

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA PARDONS 894 PRISONERS

1. ON EVE OF THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION,
EPMG ANNOUNCED GRANTING OF FULL AMNESTY TO 894 DETAINEES
BY PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC).
IN STATEMENT TO RELEASED PRISONERS, MAJOR DEBELA DINSA,
CHAIRMAN OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF ADDIS ABABA OVERALL
REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND OBSERVED THAT "THERE IS NO PLACE
FOR EITHER PSEUDO-REVOLUTIONARIES OR THOSE WHO WORK
AGAINST INTEREST OF MASSES WHILE MASQUERADE AS
REVOLUTIONARIES. FOR THAT VERY REASON, "THOSE WHO
ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE THEIR SELFISH INTERESTS AT EXPENSE OF
BROAD MASSES HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE BROUGHT TO
ACCOUNT."
AFTER ADMONISHING GROUP TO RECIPROcate PMAC'S MAGNANIMITY
BY SUPPORTING NATION AND REVOLUTION, THE CHAIRMAN
WISHED THEM A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

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2. COMMENT: SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE COMMENTED TO EMBOFFS
RECENTLY THAT INDIVIDUALS RELEASED BY THIS AMNESTY WERE
PROBABLY VICTIMS ROUNDED UP AS PART OF ALL ETHIOPIAN
SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION (AESO)-INSPIRED "KEBELE" EXCESSES
DURING PAST FOUR-SIX MONTHS. AS FAR AS EMBASSY CAN
DETERMINE, NO MAJOR POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN
AMONG THOSE RELEASED. COMMENTARY IN STATEMENT ANNOUNCING

RELEASE CLEARLY CRITICIZES EXCESS AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR
THEM, BUT LANGUAGE COULD JUST AS EASILY APPLY TO EPRP

SYMPATHIZERS AS TO AESO.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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